Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A display element comprising a single layer of porous material, a discrete drop of liquid, and means for connecting a voltage supply to the layer, the layer comprising a plurality of conductive particles covered with a lyophobic and electrically insulating covering, whereby on application of a voltage between the liquid and the porous layer, the drop of liquid moves into the layer, the drop moving back out of the layer upon removal of the voltage, the movement of the liquid effecting an optical change when viewed from above the porous layer~~; and wherein the conductive particles are organic or inorganic particles covered with a conductive shell; and the thickness of the conductive shell is chosen to create a coloured particle~~.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The display element as claimed in claim 1 wherein the conductive particles are metallic.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The display element as claimed in claim 1 wherein the drop of liquid is encapsulated by a flexible membrane.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The display element as claimed in claim 7 wherein the membrane is transparent.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The display element as claimed in claim 1 wherein the porous layer has a pore size greater than 30 nm and less than 2μm.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The display element ~~device comprising at least one element~~ as claimed in claim 1 including means for ~~connection of~~ connecting each element to a circuit to create a matrix display.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The display element ~~device~~ as claimed in claim 17 wherein the display element is environmentally sealed.

16. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The display element as claimed in claim 1 ~~comprising a single layer of porous material, a discrete drop of liquid, and means for connecting a voltage supply to the layer, the layer comprising a plurality of conductive particles covered with a lyophobic and electrically insulating covering, whereby on application of a voltage between the liquid and the porous layer, the drop of liquid moves into the layer, the drop moving back out of the layer upon removal of the voltage, the movement of the liquid effecting an optical change when viewed from above the porous layer~~ wherein the lyophobic and electrically insulating covering includes ~~is~~ a polymer, a polyelectrolyte, a fluoropolymer, a self assembled monolayer (SAM) or an inorganic shell~~; and wherein the SAM comprises a molecule with a group that bonds to the conductive particles and a group that provides a high contact angle with the liquid~~.

17. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The display element as claimed in claim 1 ~~comprising a single layer of porous material, a discrete drop of liquid, and means for connecting a voltage supply to the layer, the layer comprising a plurality of conductive particles covered with a lyophobic and electrically insulating covering, whereby on application of a voltage between the liquid and the porous layer, the drop of liquid moves into the layer, the drop moving back out of the layer upon removal of the voltage, the movement of the liquid effecting an optical change when viewed from above the porous layer and~~ wherein the materials of the porous layer ~~is~~ includes a coated onto a support material.